

In the Claims

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising
  - a) a fluid flow path, comprising
    - i) a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound, and at least one inlet pipe for connection to a fluid supply tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, and ~~and~~ at least one outlet pipe for connection to a fluid offtake tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, the point at which the or each inlet pipe and the or each outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over the wound, at least one inlet pipe being connected to a fluid recirculation tube, and at least one outlet pipe being connected to a fluid offtake tube; and
    - ii) a means for fluid cleansing having at least one inlet port connected to a fluid offtake tube and at least one outlet port connected to a fluid recirculation tube;

- b) a fluid reservoir connected by a second fluid supply tube to an integer of the flow path (optionally or as necessary via means for flow switching between supply and recirculation);
- c) a device for moving fluid through the wound dressing and means for fluid cleansing, and optionally or as necessary the fluid supply tube; and
- d) optionally means for bleeding the flowpath, such that fluid may be supplied to fill the flowpath from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube (optionally or as necessary via the means for flow switching) and recirculated by the device through the flow path.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus according to ~~claim 1,~~  
~~characterised in that it comprises~~comprising a means for fluid cleansing that is a single-phase system, in which the circulating fluid from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing and materials deleterious to wound healing are removed, without the circulating fluid coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus according to ~~claim 1,~~  
~~characterised in that it comprises~~comprising a means for fluid cleansing that is a two-phase system, in which the circulating fluid from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing and materials deleterious to wound healing are removed, by the circulating fluid coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus according to ~~claim 3,~~  
~~characterised in that in~~wherein the means for fluid cleansing, the circulating fluid from the wound and the other fluid in the means for fluid cleansing are separated by an integer which is selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 3, ~~characterised in that in~~wherein the means for fluid cleansing, the circulating fluid from the wound and the other fluid in the means for fluid cleansing are separated by an integer which is not selectively permeable to materials deleterious to wound healing, and the other fluid comprises and/or is in contact with a material that removes materials deleterious to wound healing.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the material that removes materials deleterious to wound healing is an antagonist, a ~~binders~~biinder and/or degrader, a chelator and/or ion exchanger for such deleterious materials, or an anti-oxidant.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the material that removes materials deleterious to wound healing is 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzene sulphonyl fluoride (AEBSF, PefaBloc),  $N\alpha$ -*p*-tosyl-L-lysine chloromethyl ketone (TLCK),  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproyl-*p*-chlorobenzylamide; a cysteine protease inhibitor; a matrix metalloprotease inhibitor; a carboxyl (acid) protease inhibitors; anti-inflammaroty peptidomimetics; 3-hydroxytyramine (dopamine), ascorbic acid (vitamin C), vitamin E; glutathione; desferrioxamine (DFO) and/or 3-hydroxytyramine (dopamine).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus ~~according to~~of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the materials deleterious to wound healing are oxidants; proteases; endotoxins; autoinducer signaling molecules; inhibitors of angiogenesis; pro-inflammatory cytokines; and inflammatories.

9. (Currently Amended) A conformable wound dressing for use in ~~an~~the apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~comprising a backing layer with a wound-facing face which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound and has

at least one inlet pipe for connection to a fluid supply tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, and  
at least one outlet pipe for connection to a fluid offtake tube, which passes through and/or under the wound-facing face, and  
the point at which the or each inlet pipe and the or each outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over the wound.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds according to claim 1.